

# Redland & Cotham Amenities Society



Report from the Chair  
Planning & Parks  
Trees  
Student affairs  
Transport



Number 194 - March 2022

# Report from the Chair

As I write, the signs of Spring are all around. Birds busily visiting feeders, protecting their territories and setting up this year's partnerships. We are fortunate in this area to have a dense covering of trees and shrubs which support these birds, and the insects that many of them feed on, but we are concerned about the number of mature trees and shrubs we are losing, as well as grass areas which are particularly under threat in front gardens because of the move to electric powered cars and the lack of charging infrastructure in the city.

The policy advice note on 'Front Garden Parking in Conservation Areas' continues to be part of Bristol's policy when applications are made for off-street parking despite being decades old now. Some of the essential points are that the width of the opening in the front garden wall should be limited so that a good part of the boundary wall remains, there should be no more than 50% of the front garden taken up as parking space, and that the front garden planting should be reinforced. RCAS objects in principle to all applications that do not respond to these criteria.

We also assess the many applications for tree works including felling and are very conscious that we are losing many trees in front and back gardens. We have invited Bristol City Council tree officers to address our Spring Meeting on 28th April to explain their powers to us, and to set out some of the emerging policies which Bristol will be adopting with the new Local Plan.

**We look forward to seeing many of you at the**

**supplementary Annual General meeting on April 28th**

**at the Redland Club, which will also include plenty of time to chat and to meet the RCAS committee members. More details of the meeting are on page 23.**

Many of the members expressed a preference for a face-to-face meeting for the formal AGM in November last year. We hope to see them at this meeting, which is open to members and their guests.

We are pleased to welcome onto the committee Chris Shelley, who will be leading regular workparties in Cotham Gardens starting on March 12th (more details on p21). There appears to be an appetite for re-starting volunteer activities, and we have been lending our litter-pickers to the Chandos Neighbourhood Association (CNA) volunteers who have been having monthly sessions in their area.



Improvised daffodil protection on The Grove

Last autumn, the CNA donated some daffodil bulbs, which volunteers planted on Redland Grove. Unfortunately, the Grove is now much more heavily used, and the bulbs have been damaged by people walking over them. This means that our plans to plant wildflowers between the trees where the grass is now being left longer will have to be tweaked to avoid them suffering the same fate.

Across Bristol, more and more areas of grassland are being left to grow longer and to provide habitat for wildlife and pollinator plants for bees and other insects. The Grove is an area where this is now being practised.

A quick update on the Family Food Action project, which many of you support. This was set up at the beginning of the Covid 19 lockdown to help families and to maintain connections between children and their schools. Once the schools opened up again, we moved to partner with community organisations that offer support to local families through children's activities and food clubs in Lockleaze, Easton, Eastville and St Pauls. Fuel cost increases are now affecting the families they support and the FFA donations are more appreciated than ever. Thank you to the members who support FFA. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Alison Bromilow



Left: FFA banner at the Ardagh Centre



Middle: Felix Road, a 'Bristol Gem' in Easton is celebrating 50 years of supporting generations of children and families (now over 900) in its amazing and unique 3-acre community space this year

Food has always been an important part of Felix Road's culturally diverse history. Six days a week 52 weeks a year their wonderful Kitchen Coordinator Nirmal Singh cooks over 20,000 free hot meals for children, after school, weekends, and holidays





# Planning Report

**Hampton Lane Garage.** Office + flat + 3 bed house. RCAS no objection. GRANTED

**7 Glentworth Road.** Off street parking with loss of front boundary wall. REFUSED. RCAS had objected to excessive width of opening and loss of front garden.

**2 St Oswalds Road.** Application for new house in rear garden. RCAS no objection as the building will not significantly impact on Redland Green views. Reassessed since leaf fall – will be visible from green but low impact. Proposals for tree works assessed by DJ. No comment. GRANTED.

**87A Redland Road.** Application for change of use of two maisonettes into large student HMOs. RCAS has objected on the grounds of poor-quality accommodation and adverse impact on neighbours, also on loss of trees. WITHDRAWN

**8 Chandos Road.** 2no 3 storey buildings facing onto Cowper Road. RCAS objected. This has gone to APPEAL on non-determination grounds ie the LA has not made a decision within the approved time period.

**6 Clyde Park.** APPEAL AGAINST REFUSAL of application for a 2-storey house facing onto Clyde Lane.

## PENDING DECISION:

**71 Arley Hill.** Application for increase in the size of the upper-level HMO from 6 to 8 bedrooms. This is a retrospective application, as work was already well underway and larger property has been let.

RCAS has objected to the HMO application which will contribute to the existing imbalance of HMO accommodation, and potential for adverse impact on neighbours because of the relocation of the common room to first floor level, particularly due to noise transmitted through party wall. Still no decision.

**55 Trelawney Road.** Roof extension. Previous application was withdrawn, RCAS has not objected to the new application which has a smaller dormer window which we feel is more in keeping with the existing building and does not overwhelm it. No comment.

**21 Cotham Grove.** Single storey residential unit in back garden fronting Fremantle Road. RCAS objected to the previous application; this revision provides better accommodation has minimal impact on street and provides an amenity space for future residents. No comment



12 Woodstock Road : no planning application has been made for a 2 storey structure



## Other planning news:

We picked up an advertisement for a number of property lets on Hampton Road, in outbuildings which had not been given planning permission. This was reported to the Enforcement team. The main building is also being advertised as a student-let despite not having a property licence. We have raised this with the Private Housing dept. See photo right



Bristol flats. Apartments to rent in Hampton Road BS6, Bristol - Nestoria

### 12-14 Woodstock Road.

RCAS has raised the case with Planning Enforcement many times but no application for the work currently being carried out has yet been submitted.

We understand that following investigation of the work being carried out on the Redland Court Road frontage of 12 Woodstock Road, where a two-storey steel structure had been erected, the property owner was told to stop work and submit a planning application. (See photo below left). The only approved development for this site is for a single storey garage to the rear of 12 Woodstock Road facing onto Redland Court Road, with the garden replaced over this garage, and the subdivision of the building into 3 flats with a new conservatory on the rear elevation.

Work on the back garden, has recently slowed but a healthy lime tree on the frontage of 14 Woodstock Road was felled last year. An application to fell this tree in 2020 was refused.

Previously, the lime tree in the front garden of 12 Woodstock Road had been felled with approval but a replacement tree was

supposed to have been planted within the first available planting season; this has not happened.

Since then, the developer has been digging out the front garden of both properties. Again, no application for approval of the work or of the construction programme has been sought or obtained.

RCAS has contacted householders along Woodstock Road and Redland Court Road, and we have had many responses. It is apparent that some of the neighbours wrongly thought that the work was part of the Redland Court development, and some had reported the work to Enforcement, as RCAS had done, but none has had a satisfactory response from the council. Simon is continuing to pursue this matter through the councillors and the planning department.

Neighbours are being affected by piling works being carried out in anti-social hours and damage is being caused to the pavement from heavy equipment.

Alison Bromilow and Simon Birch

## Cotham Hill permanent pedestrianisation

The results of the public consultation have been released and show overwhelming support for Option A. The council will progress this scheme to the detailed design stage, with some additions and changes in response to the consultation feedback.

Further statutory consultations on aspects of the scheme will take place towards the end of 2022 as part of the legal process for traffic regulation orders.

Option A - continues with the closure on Cotham Hill for vehicles between Whiteladies Gate and Hampton Park and Hampton Park and Abbotsford Road (retaining private access at number 38).

A series of one-ways have been proposed that retain access for residents, businesses and visitors whilst reducing traffic speeds, through traffic and vehicles meeting head on. A 'school street' has also been proposed adjacent to St Peters and Paul Primary School. The cycle lane on Cotham Hill between West Park and Hampton Road will be upgraded by installing bollards to separate people cycling from traffic.

Other measures, such as bollards, planters, blue badge parking, cycle lanes and cycle parking, would also form part of the proposals.

The 'school street' outside SS Peter and Paul Primary School, would close part of Aberdeen Road at drop-off and pick-up times, making it safer for children to walk, cycle and scoot to school.

37% of responses to the consultation survey wanted a bike hangar on their street and put forward 240 road names. Hampton Park, Cotham Hill, Aberdeen Road and Hampton Road were the top 4.

59% of responses would like to see street artwork on the carriageway included in the proposals.

## Cranbrook Road Informal Crossing

A crossing was originally requested in 2016, when there was a campaign by local residents to make it safer to cross Cranbrook Road, between Cairns Road and Harcourt Hill, especially for those walking to and from local schools. Funds were allocated for an informal crossing, with a pedestrian island and pavement buildouts, by Area Committee 2 in 2019.

A consultation has just closed asking for views on two options. The first option proposes a 2.5m wide pedestrian island and two 1m pavement buildouts. These allow crossing pedestrians to more easily see, and be seen by, vehicles going along Cranbrook Road and to pause halfway across to wait for a break in traffic.

The second option reduces the island to 2m wide and has only one 0.5m buildout in order to also provide a segregated uphill cycle lane. Both options narrow the road to introduce a degree of traffic calming on vehicles going along Cranbrook Road.

## The former St Christopher's School Site (St Christopher's Square)

In Spring 2021 the Westbury Park Community Association (WPCA) agreed a programme of community engagement with the development partnership to engage immediate neighbours of the St. Christopher site and people living in the wider Westbury Park area.

The developers have said that the development will be net zero carbon and with positive social outcomes. However, neighbours living adjacent to the site and members of Westbury Park Community Association (WPCA) were very unhappy with the original draft development plans released in October 2021. They felt that the site would be over developed (some buildings too tall, too many units, loss of trees) and that the extra traffic generated would also harm the local environment. Some were so concerned that they formed an action group St Christopher's Action Network.

The developers agreed to an extended consultation period with local residents and stakeholders. The consultation period ended on January 26th and the developers aim to submit a planning application to Bristol City Council shortly.

St Christopher's Square Site



## Circular Road Café

Demolition of existing public toilet block and construction of single storey building comprising café, education booth and replacement toilets.

This planning application was originally made in 2018. It has been resubmitted by the Downs Committee and is pending consideration. A large number of comments, both in favour and objecting to the development, have been made. Most objections concern the type of building being proposed and building development within the Downs Conservation Area. The determination date for the application is 1st March 2022.



# Parks

## Redland Green

John and Steve for a while checked and cleared out the 16 bird boxes on Redland Green yesterday.

8 boxes had nests in them: 7 of these were the same 7 used last year, and the 8th was one that had had a part nest in it in 2020-21. None of the open fronted boxes have been used. None of the other 4 showed signs of activity - last year, several had part nests in them.

We plan to relocate some boxes next year if they haven't been used for a third year running.

We swapped the fronts of two Alicante (oval) boxes, as follows:

Box 6 (near Philippa Harradine's stone) had an open-front, and now has a 32mm round hole; and box 2 now has the open front.

We also plan to purchase some plastic or metal labels with numbers on them, and glue these to the fronts of the boxes, as this will be more durable than our "permanent" markers have been.

We have yet to put up the 4 new boxes but will do this soon.

One interesting thing was this: Box 15 (near the tennis courts) last year had a nest in it with pink and white wool decorating it.

The same box this year also had a nest, also decorated (more lavishly) with pink wool! See photos below.

A great tit was lurking near the box while we put the ladder up - perhaps this is the artistic bird?

Julie Parker

Below: fence panels brought down in the storms



## Cotham Gardens Report

Every season brings its joys and chores. In winter we can enjoy the beautiful silhouettes of the park's many and varied trees, with crisp mornings and cobwebbed shrubs.

However, at the same time the glut of fallen leaves, and what at times has felt like everlasting rain, clog the drains and make the pathways slippery. The bridge in particular can be treacherous underfoot, so an energetic sweeping in January was needed to clear away the piles of sodden leaves.



Holm Oak giving colour over the winter and sun dial holding up despite the stormy weather

When we pool our skills and time we can get more done, so please do see if you are free to lend a hand on Saturday 12th March (see advert in this newsletter). Regular tackling of jobs will keep them in check.

The ball is in Bristol City Council's court for progress on the tree and wildflower projects outlined in the last newsletter, but volunteers will be needed next month to help plant some plugs along Lovers' Walk to develop the wildflower plantings between the trees.

Local residents have expressed a wish to see more colour in Cotham Gardens, and if we can encourage wildflower plantings we will be providing that colour and creating habitats for pollinators and other vital wildlife.

Sarah Cuthill



# Student Liaison

## Operation Beech (Extract from UoB website)

'The University of Bristol is working with Avon & Somerset Police to put on extra police patrols in some student areas. Responding to concerns from local residents about the increase in late-night parties, the aim is to make sure noise is kept to a minimum to help maintain good student-resident relations.

The designated area includes all roads within the border of Chandos Road, Hampton Road, Redland Grove and Trelawney Road, with the addition of:

- Ashgrove Road
- Manor Park
- Highbury Villas
- Eaton Crescent
- Arlington Villas

TEXT 07773 816 248 between 8pm and 2am on Operation Beech dates if experiencing house party or street noise disturbance that is believed to be caused by University of Bristol students. Please include street name and the house number and the extra Police patrols will respond on a priority basis.

Operation Beech will be running between 8pm and 2am every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. Ongoing provision will be confirmed after 30 July 2022.

Please note Police emergencies/serious crime in the city will take priority. Where there is an emergency, a crime is in progress, there is a danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened call 999.'

## Purpose Built Student Accommodation and Shared Living - Draft Supplementary Planning Document

Bristol City Council (BCC) recently called for views on a new draft planning guidance relating to the development of PBSA and other forms of shared living accommodation. BCC say "The guidance will support existing and emerging Local Plan policies used to decide planning applications for this type of accommodation. The Council's policies aim to encourage balanced communities in Bristol"

This type of student accommodation is often found in the city centre and takes some of the pressure off other mixed residential areas from student numbers expansion. It is reassuring that BCC has moved to create this additional planning guidance, as they say "to encourage balanced communities"

## BSCP Meeting Report extracts

The priority of the Bristol Student Community Partnership (BSCP) must be that UoB students are briefed before entering the community and this must reach 100% to be effective, otherwise reactive firefighting will continue to be the major avenue for achieving better community experience.

The joint UoB/UWE welcome letter is well put together and lays out clearly what is expected of each student when living in the community. It is essential to see what is being sent out to students so that neighbours of student households are aware of what the students are told or not told. This will avoid unnecessary conflict brought about by miscommunication. It cannot be confidential so it would be good to have all



this information stored online so it can be accessed easily.

The complaints statistics should be a matter of public record also - if they were the community would not necessarily have to make their own record through the NoisePages.

UoB has not made it clear exactly how its new disciplinary set-up works, despite questioning. The new process of having two visits from Community Liaison Officer (CLO) appears to have watered down the disciplinary process so that the households have two free breaches before any penalty. UoB said that they are about to appoint a new CLO. They said that the person has a 30-year background as a police officer.

The Police say that they do not have statutory powers to deal with noise and that they consider noise is principally a matter for councils to deal with. However, they said that noise can be dealt with under Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) powers if considered to be serious and repeated over time. The Police ASB Team can make use of Acceptable Behaviour Contracts in conjunction with Landlords and UoB.

BCC Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (NET) policy in dealing with noise complaints is that they ask that a 14-day noise diary is carried out to demonstrate if there is a pattern of repeated disturbance. This policy clearly cannot deal with a one event student party. The Police say that BCC are responsible for noise issues! So who is to deal with this problem?

NET responds to complaints from the public. BCC Private Housing Service (PHS) is more

focused on licensing and property inspections. Noise complaints can go to PHS if there were indications a landlord was not complying with licence responsibilities.

Now that it is easier for the neighbours of an HMO to find Landlord contact details (via pinpoint) it follows that it is more likely that neighbours with issues will be appealing to Landlords to deal with issues. This is good because Landlords can have a strong influence on their tenants' behaviour.

We sympathise with BCC and their staffing problems but these issues are not going away, the lack of enforcement on Landlord licence breaches is a major issue.

Flatline and other letting agents have been invited to take part at the meetings. This almost completes the multi agency approach that is required to agree policy to achieve a happy community.

Rob Harris

## Student Council Tax Exemptions

You may be aware that households where everyone is a full-time student do not have to pay Council Tax. A full time student is one where their course lasts at least a year and involves at least 21 hours study per week. This council tax exemption is set by central government.

There is a £23 million budget gap in Bristol for the next financial year which will inevitably mean that further cuts will be made to jobs and services. There are currently, according to figures from the two universities, 27,000 full time students at University of Bristol and 24,000 at UWE.

Student accomodation rental is a multi million pound business and the demand for student accomodation is such that there have been completely unsuitable and unlicensed buildings advertised for rental (see Planning Report). Obviously the vast majority of student accomodation is of much better quality.

Students bring many benefits to our city but with a large and increasing number of students perhaps there should be a rebalance of who pays for the many local services that council tax partly funds.

Louise Block wanted to get accurate information about the amount of council tax exempted by Bristol City Council for student accomodation and she submitted a FOI request. Using the information provided by the council Chandos Neighbourhood Association wrote to councillors, the Mayor and the Lord Mayor asking them to consider ways in which changes might be made so that student accomodation owners contribute equitably for the council services that their student tenants use.

Many thanks to Louise Block who made the FAO request and Andrew Waller (Noise Pages) who drafted the letter.



With respect to today's Budget Report, in particular Paragraph 4.9 on local-government funding, we urge the council to make every effort to reduce the cost to the authority of Bristol's large student population.

Student exemptions from council tax now total about £15 million a year and the commercial student-accommodation blocks rapidly colonising the city centre don't pay business rates. This combined loss of revenue would cover two-thirds or more of the authority's £23 million budget gap.

We understand the reasons for tax and rates exemptions. We also accept that the universities bring broad economic benefits to the city. But the fairness of the council-tax system is fundamentally challenged when landlords can let a house for £50,000 a year but neither they nor their student tenants pay a penny towards local services. The cost is instead met by long-term residents through higher council tax or loss of services to balance the books.

Waiving business rates for student blocks run for profit makes even less sense. They get a free pass because they're classed as "domestic" property. But this is domestic on an industrial scale. The city plans 6,400 extra bed spaces over the ten years to 2027/28.

These exemptions are set by central government, which is why we urge the council to work closely with other authorities, as well as the city's MPs, to secure change in Westminster. For example, Thangham Debbonaire, MP for Bristol West, has opposed the business-rates "tax loophole".

The search for solutions should consider all options. Even a partial rollback, so that student landlords paid a percentage of the normal council tax or business rates, could make a huge difference.

The council might also review the Community Infrastructure Levy, highlighted by the Minister of State for Housing in a recent reply to Ms Debbonaire. Bristol sets a CIL of £148 per square metre on new student accommodation—higher than for residential development but less than retail. Is there scope to increase this charge?

With tens of thousands of students living in Bristol, it's vital the university sector pays its fair share in making the city a decent place to live. Chandos Neighbourhood Association believes the balance is not equitable and urges the council to do everything possible to correct it.

Yours faithfully,  
Diana Swain (Chair Chandos Neighbourhood Association)

Photo opposite: Spring is on its way



## Trees

The RCAS planning group, which monitors all planning applications for the area, is only too aware of the number of trees that are being cut back and felled in our private gardens.

The Redland and Cotham area is very densely developed already, and more and more gardens are being lost to house extensions, new small residences and off-street car parking/electric charging bays, so that the contribution that our private spaces make locally to the greenspace and tree canopy is constantly being reduced.

There are few streets locally with pavements wide enough to accommodate significant trees, and fears about tree roots causing structural damage mean that many people oppose existing and new street trees near their property. The importance of protecting Redland and Cotham's existing trees and gardens is clear.

Bristol has a policy in the One City Plan 2021 to increase the tree canopy from the 2018 quantum by 25% in 2035. The plan states that by 2040

"The abundance of wildlife has doubled since the beginning of the One City Plan as has the city's tree canopy cover. Bristol is recognised globally as an exemplar for urban environment and its ecological habitats and biodiversity are at record highs. Bristol's parks are used on a weekly basis and the city is internationally recognised for its approach to equitable, sustainable and environmental change. The city's air pollution has declined to the level of surrounding rural areas."

This Plan is still only a 'vision statement', but it informs the direction which Planning and other policies are moving.

The updated Bristol Local Plan, which will be consulted on this year, will also have regard to the government's 25-year Environment Plan and the Natural England Action Plan, which was presented to COP 22.

This emphasises the importance of outdoor space to our society and economy. It will also be in line with the West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020-2030 (WoEJGIS) which states that

"In built areas it connects public spaces like parks, streets and waterfront with surrounding landscapes. It also includes the tree canopy that keeps cities cooler in summer, adds natural beauty, helps clean the air, and reduces storm water run-off."

Trees and greenspace play a vital part in improving air-quality and combatting the 'urban heat island' effect, caused by heat building up in roads, pavements and building surfaces so increasing the temperature in cities, and in mitigating the impact of surface water flooding by retaining rainwater as it falls, instead of taking it into our overloaded drainage system. The benefits of trees to our health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, are widely accepted.

The importance of providing areas for wildlife including insects to thrive, to prevent our cities becoming sterile deserts, is also recognised; the WoEJGIS states "Insects are a vital part of our ecosystems and play an important role in food production. 75% of the crop types grown by humans require pollination by insects which are in rapid decline".

As part of the current Parks and Green Spaces Strategy consultation, the 'green grid' of linked greenspaces, which create

and maintain wildlife corridors, is being considered. We are fortunate to have the Severn Beach rail line which forms a 'wildlife corridor' through our area.

Most of the RCAS is within one of the local conservation areas, which gives Tree Officers greater opportunities to guide and control tree works, but their powers are still restricted. When RCAS and BCC drew up the Cotham and Redland Conservation Area Character Appraisal in 2011, we were able to incorporate a section on Landscape and Trees, which sets out the particular importance of these to the character of our area. This states that

'Of cause for concern to local residents is excessive or untimely pollarding, uncontrolled epicormic growth, and poor-quality tree works. The community consider every tree in the Conservation Area to be of value and consequently wish to see the opportunity to preserve trees is taken, or see appropriate new or replacement planting where a loss occurs'. (p72)

We have asked Bristol City Council officers to talk to the members at our meeting on April 28th about how the One City aspiration to increase tree canopy sits with the current and emerging planning legislation and how they can use their powers to guide tree maintenance and prevent tree removal and ensure trees are replaced where appropriate.

Alison Bromilow



## Edgecumbe Road 1924

Richard Hope-Hawkins has very kindly allowed us to use photos of his family and their home taken in 1920's.

The house at 20 Edgecumbe Road was one of several houses owned by members of Richard's family in the Redland area.

Richard's great grandmother was Ellen Anne Mitchell who established the wine merchants, E A Mitchell's, which was very successful and grew to have over a dozen branches around Bristol including shops on Whiteladies Road and North View.

The family fortunes brought the family from the Stapleton area to more affluent Redland. Firstly, to Hazeldene in Chapel Green Road and then expanding to include 19 and 20 Edgecumbe Road, 120 Cranbrook Road and a house in Fernbank Road.

The family were also proud owners of a car. Francis, Richard's grandmother can be seen at the wheel.

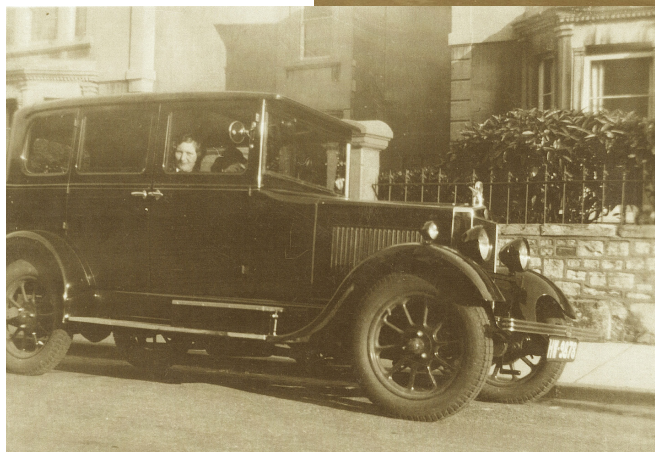
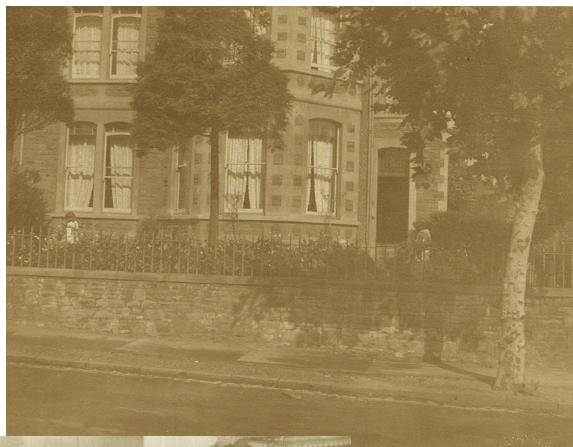
The original railings surrounding the garden are visible in the photo and you can also see a young girl playing in the front garden. One of the photos is dated 3rd March 1924.

Richard has returned to live in Redland and has a bottle of whisky from the 1930's as a memento of his Great grandmother's successful business.

Photos this page from top  
Gate entrance from Northumberland Rd  
Number 20 viewed from Edgecumbe Rd  
Ellen Mitchell, Francis Gell and Dorothy Gell.  
Richard's great grandmother, grandmother and mother.







## Transport

### eBikes

You may have noticed The Big Issue eBikes which appeared in the area at the beginning of February. This is a national eBikes scheme, with Bristol being the first city to see bikes on the ground.

The Big Issue eBikes scheme is the first of its kind and will recruit and retrain un-employed and vulnerable people in local communities and provide them with access to support and services to improve their lives. All employees will be paid a Living Wage. The scheme seeks to boost green employment opportunities and transport options in smaller cities and towns across the UK.

The scheme is also designed to meet environmental needs and encourage healthy living in each location, by reducing congestion and encouraging people to cycle, rather than use a car. Big Issue eBikes will also directly benefit Bristol's Clean Air plan by providing a genuine alternative to car use. This is important, as currently over 80 per cent of Bristol's pollution has been shown to be from local traffic sources. The estimated benefit for Bristol with a scheme of around 500 bikes is a direct reduction of 1,900 car trips a day.

We welcome efforts to encourage healthy living and lower Bristol's air pollution. We hope that pavements will also be kept clear for other users, particularly as the area already has quite large numbers of eScooters.



## Redland Station Pedestrian Bridge

Alison Bromilow found photos of an event we were involved in nearly 25 years ago. Redland Station was 100 years old on April 12th 1997, and South Wales and West Railway and RCAS organised a celebration for the railway.

The party joined the train at Redland Station and travelled to Severn Beach, where the costume competition was judged by the rail company representatives.

The cast-iron pedestrian bridge had been repaired and repainted; this is a listed structure. RCAS is concerned about the current state of the pedestrian bridge over the railway. Remedial works to repair the rusting structure were scheduled for 2018 but have repeatedly been postponed. It would be good if it were addressed this year! (see also Cotham Park Report).



## Clean Air Zone in Bristol

Bristol City Council will be implementing a Clean Air Zone to ensure Bristol meets air pollution limits within the shortest possible time. A major source of air pollution in cities is road traffic, particularly diesel engines. Bristol's zone will start in summer 2022. Charges will be applied all day and every day.

Check whether your vehicle will be charged for entering the zone.

Support to help residents and businesses prepare for the zone is available.





## Redland Court

RCAS committee were delighted to be invited to see inside the refurbished Redland Court building before end of construction works. The new owners are certainly going to enjoy the views over Bristol.



## The Council Budget

The Budget presented by the Mayor was not agreed at the last full council meeting. Following the five-day period of reflection, the Mayor has produced an alternative budget which contains a total of seventeen revisions to the amended budget. The headline amendments include:

Establishing at least one new Residents Parking Scheme where there is community support

Proposed one off funding for a fruit tree planting initiative

Increase fees for Pay and Display parking bays in Residents Parking Schemes to continue 30 minutes free parking in these

areas

The original proposed budget includes over In addition to considering the revenue and capital budgets for the forthcoming year, councillors must also vote on other budgets associated with schools and housing.

The alternative budget sets out a balanced position as the council is under a legal duty to set a balanced budget.

At the Budget meeting on 2 March, the amended budget from last week's Full Council will be debated and voted on first. If that is not agreed, the Mayor's alternative budget will be debated and voted on.

# Cotham Park

## Spring Clean Work Party

Dear Local Residents,

We can all agree Cotham Park has become very much a centre for the local community of walkers, dog-owners, exercise groups and children's play areas. This has become especially important over the past 2 years during various lockdowns etc.

Nothing lifts the gloom like a walk in the park!

Meanwhile the Bristol City Council have been struggling to resource and fund many local services and projects. This has resulted in a lot of vegetation and soil run off on the paths making it at times slippery and looking uncared for.

There are several local residents who clean up litter and even clear the paths of leaves and soil run off. *This unilateral volunteer work is hugely appreciated with a special mention to Charles who has recently cleared the mud from bottom of the park by himself.*

We now would like to form a bi-monthly volunteer workgroup to meet on a Saturday morning (or other convenient time) to undertake simple clearing and cleaning work to keep the area looking clean, and reduce the blockage of drains that can cause localised flooding in heavy rain

How you can help...

If you are willing to give up between 1 to 3 hours or your time once a month on a Saturday morning to help, we would like to hear from you – or you can just turn up! . If nothing else it is an opportunity to meet other local residents who care about our local environment.

Proposed dates: Spring Clean #1 : Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> March 09:30am to 12:30pm

Please bring a stiff brush, shovel, rake and/or wheel barrow - whatever you have! We will provide plastic bags that the council will collect and dispose of to recycling centres.

Please email [chris@csa-i.com](mailto:chris@csa-i.com). Feel free to make additional suggestions on how to improve the part and propose times to meet.

**Redland & Cotham Amenities Society**

Registered Charity 268848

Founded 1973

**Working for the conservation and improvement of our area**





## FRIENDS and NEIGHBOURS may want to join RCAS

The annual subscription is £10 per household.  
The postal subscription for those living outside the RCAS area is also £10.

We prefer to collect subscriptions by Standing Order in order to reduce work for our distributors. We will supply a Standing Order mandate form on request. For those who do not wish to use Standing Order, subscriptions will be collected by distributors in May

Those wishing to join should contact the Membership Secretary

Kathryn Armitstead  
52 Redland Court Road  
Redland  
Bristol  
BS6 7EH  
Email: [membership@rcas.org.uk](mailto:membership@rcas.org.uk)

Please give a full contact address and telephone number. Please include your e-mail address if available.

**Alternatively, please complete a new member form which can be found on our website, [rcas.org.uk](http://rcas.org.uk) under the 'contact us' page**

Please make the following declaration if you are a taxpayer - and sign and date it. This means that the Society can claim Gift Aid.

*'I want the Redland & Cotham Amenities Society to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid. I know that I must pay an amount of income/capital gains tax at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on my donations in the tax year'*

**Do mention if you are able to help with any RCAS activities.**

**We look forward to welcoming members and their  
guests**

**to our supplementary AGM on April 28th 2022 at  
the**

**Redland Club, Burlington Road, BS6 6TN**

**Meeting starts 7.00pm**

**(doors open 6.45pm)**

**Talk on Trees and how BCC Tree Officers  
guide and monitor works on trees**

**And a chance to meet the committee  
Drinks and snacks will be available.**

The Bowls Big Weekend is a national event taking place at the Bristol Arrows Bowling Club (located next to Bannatynes, Redland Road) from Friday 28th to Sunday 30th May.

This provides the opportunity for you, your friends and family to give bowls a go. We'll be opening our doors and welcoming people of all ages who want to try a new sport, have some fun and meet new people.

Bristol Arrows is the oldest bowling club in Bristol, founded in 1894, at the suggestion of the famous cricketer, W.G. Grace.

We'll be holding free, bookable sessions throughout the day on Friday and Sunday, and a morning session on Saturday.

Once you register your interest with us you will receive a confirmation email and we will engage with you closer to the day, to help ensure you have a fantastic time with us.

Interested? Register with us via our website ([bristolarrowsbowls-club.org.uk](http://bristolarrowsbowls-club.org.uk)) or phone Lyn on 07974315058

